

Special Veteran's Day Ceremony Marked by Dedication of Twin Towers Replica Created by Rockcastle Co. ATC Students

Veterans, school administrators, city, county and state officials, teachers and students assembled on an overcast Veteran's Day for an emotional ceremony to dedicate an awesome scaled down replica of the "Twin Towers." The ceremony provided a fitting finale for the blood, sweat and tears it took to build the towers as well as what they represent.

A community driven event, the project took shape because of the vision of Rockcastle Co. ATC Principal Ralph Baker in trying to create a significant educational and life learning opportunity for students to be taught



outside of the box. The yearlong project fostered an educational and emotional environment to shape the attitudes of many young students about what it means to be an American. The towers stand as a cornerstone to honor American beliefs, values and ideals.

The Rockcastle Co. High School ROTC opened the ceremony by retiring the colors and erecting a new flag. ROTC Cadet Officer Jesse McCollum presented Principal Ralph Baker with both the retired and new flags. Adam Paquette, the local SkillsUSA Chapter president led approximately 300 people in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Cadet Officer
Jesse McCollum
folds the American flag.

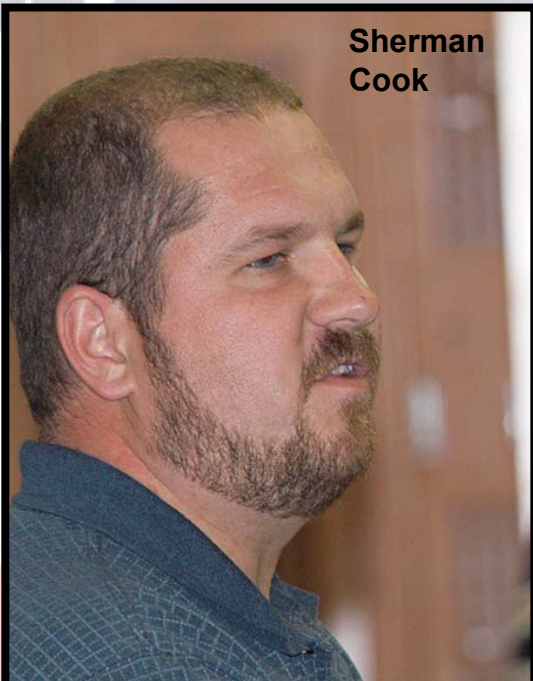




Ken Fannin

An official welcome was offered by Automotive Technology Instructor Ken Fannin who talked about the importance of being an American, the American flag and what it represents. “Many ancestors remembered and family members known have fought and died – and fought and won every battle this nation has encountered since the days of the

colonial colonies,” said Fannin. “Americans who fought to defend this flag and what it represents understand the meaning of being an American and patriotism. And now, so do the students at the Rockcastle Co. ATC.”



Sherman
Cook

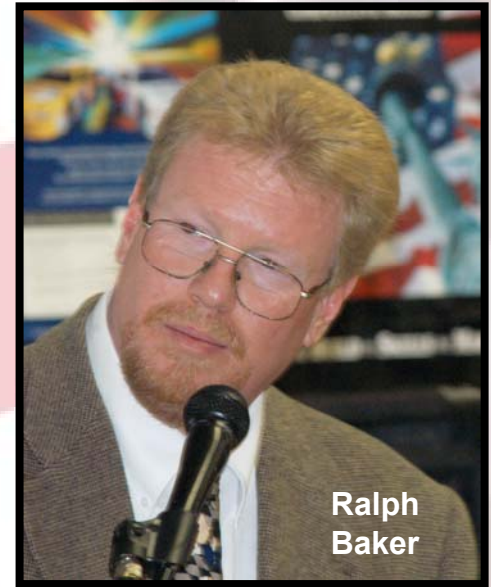
“This is a serious, solemn event. It was a privilege for all of us to work on this project. The whole plan has been an important mission for many reasons that include more than 9-11,” says Welding Instructor Sherman Cook. “It’s meant to honor those of the past, present and future. It’s important that we do not forget who we are and what makes this nation great. Our welding and electricity students have worked extremely hard to create a monument that will stand in full view for all to see; however, students in all of our programs participated in this project in some manner.”

“This has been an emotional time here at this school. We have great kids. These are real life people – they are just young,” says Baker. “I wish all of our visitors could see what these kids have done; what we went through; and how they have lived through some real life emotional times while researching this subject.

A keystone of the ceremony was built around the perceptions and reflections of the students. One or two students from each program area were given an opportunity to express their view(s) and how the assignment made a personal impact.

“I have two family members in the military, a brother and cousin. Both of them made it back from Iraq ok,” said Justin Albright, an office technology student. “Because of people like my brother and cousin, our country is what it is today.”

“I didn’t think it would affect me – but my dad was sent to Iraq,” says BreAnna Morgan, an office technology student. “I’m praying for him to come home soon. I want to thank all the veterans and acknowledge what you do for our country.”



Ralph
Baker





Jennifer Evans

“After all the research, I think about the people who had to make a choice of whether to jump or burn alive,” said Electricity Student Jennifer Evans. “The USA will never be the same. The pain will live forever and will never die. The death of all the people on that day will never stop being re-lived as the day when America cried.”

“Events like this are why we go to war...that is also why we have ceremonies like this,” says Elizabeth Scarborough, health sciences student. “Now we realize that freedom doesn’t come cheap. We should cherish every second of it because it can be gone in the blink of an eye.”

“Before 9-11 we, as Americans, took for granted our right to freedom and how much it meant to us,” says Claudia Brock, health sciences student. “Not until the research for this project did I realize how many people this affected.”

“We are here today to remember the events that happened on 9-11. We remember and honor those innocent people who died,” said Chris Sparks, a welding student. “The Twin Towers project is a way to remember and to remind us that this can happen to us as well as those in other countries.”

“One part of the research that left an impression on our students was how many people who were confirmed dead at the towers – 2,948. That’s almost as many students as there are in the Rockcastle Co. school system – we have approximately 3,000 students district wide,” said Baker. “If you could put all of our students into one building, that’s how many people died. If you think about this, it makes an impact because it would wipe out all of our young.”

At right, health sciences students Leslie Philbeck, Kacey Scoggin, and Kayla Lear.



Jessica Burke, sister of welding student Josh Burke.





BreAnna
Morgan



Rockcastle
Co. ATC
SkillsUSA
officers.



Scott Thompson, at right, a former Rockcastle Co. ATC student and instructor sang "Where Were You When The World Stopped Turning."



Brittani Gregory listens intently during the program.

The two towers, made of aluminum, stand roughly 15 feet high. This is approximately 1/100th of the size of the World Trade Center towers.

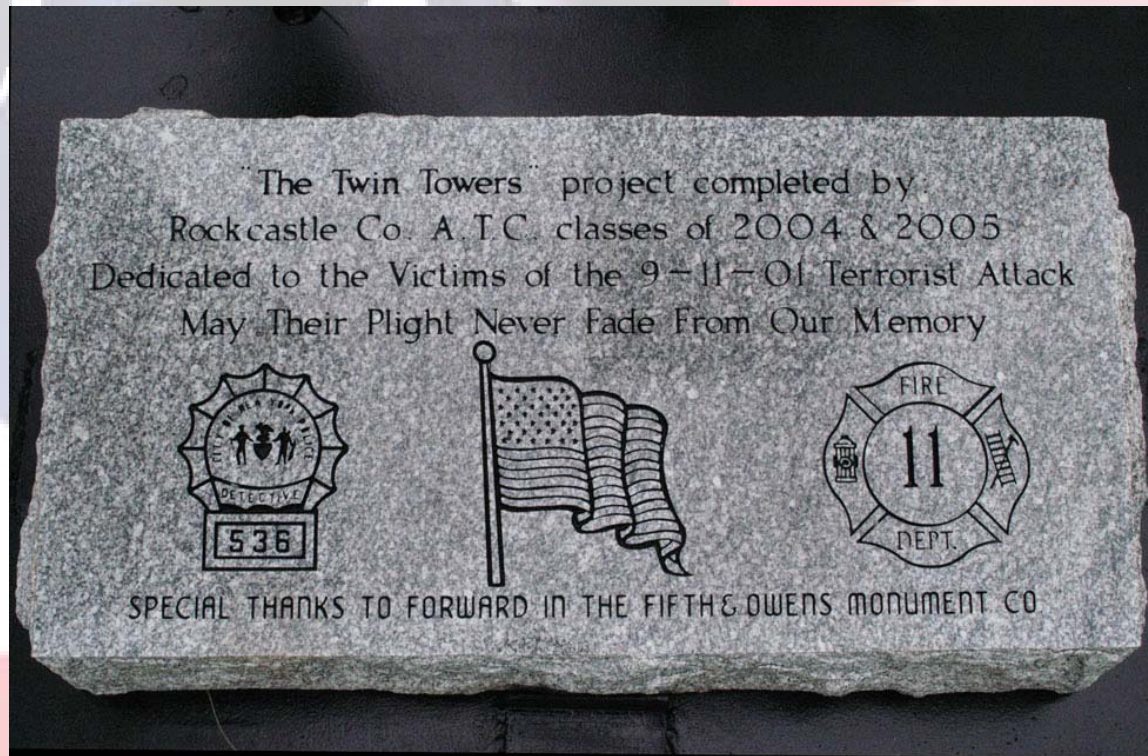
The towers are secured onto a carbon steel base on the front lawn of the ATC. Electricity students wired an external lighting source at the base of the structure to shine on the replica during the nighttime. A special granite stone has been engraved with firemen and policemen logos and an American flag as well as the names of those who participated in this worthwhile project. It was donated by Marvin E. Owens Monument Company in Brodhead and was dedicated to the people who were killed or injured by the terrorists. Students within the school district and the committed teachers who helped make this a reality will forever be touched by their participation in this historic endeavor.



The Twin Towers Tech Prep project was a joint venture among the automotive technology program, electrical technology, health sciences, office technology, welding technology programs and the School-To-Careers, Forward In the Fifth, EST Tool, Marvin E. Owens Monument Co., Woodmen of the World and Rockcastle Co. School District.

“We wanted to do something to recognize people and families that were affected by September 11 and to cultivate a spirit of patriotism,” Baker said. “I believe we were able to reach our goal.”

To request more information regarding this project, please contact Rockcastle Co. ATC Principal Ralph Baker via this link.



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